

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker and Members, we have had another moment of silence, a moment of silence indicating that somehow we are concerned about what happened in Orlando, Florida. It is not good enough.

How many times have we done this? Whether we are talking about Sandy Hook, where those babies were killed, or we are talking about North Carolina or we are talking about San Bernardino or Aurora, Colorado, we keep getting up with a moment of silence because we don't want to deal with what is really going on.

This Republican leadership is pitiful. It is disgusting that they don't have the guts or the commitment to call it like it is and bring a bill to this floor to get rid of assault weapons. That weapon that killed those 50 people and harmed those other 53 is a weapon that is designed for war. Don't tell me about your hunting concerns. This AR-15 has nothing to do with hunting. This is about killing. And so this leadership is spineless, it is gutless, and it deserves not to have the ability to get up on this floor and talk about responsibility or innovation—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.—or any of this other stuff that they are talking about. I want to say over and over again, I don't care if my time is up, you stop me from talking if you will.

The fact of the matter is, we should all be on this. Business as usual? I don't think so. We should have stopped everything this evening, concentrated on how we can get a bill to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I know you don't want me to talk while you are waiting for your talking points from the leadership.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.
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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to recognize the gentleman from California.

PROPERTY RIGHTS EXEMPTION FOR FARMS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last Friday a Federal court in California made an almost unbelievable ruling that the Army Corps of Engineers could regulate the plowing of fields despite clear exemptions for normal farming activities in the Clean Water Act.

Ruling against a family farm in my district, the court somehow found that the Corps was justified in attacking the farm for, believe it or not, planting wheat on land that had been used to grow wheat for decades. Wow. The

nerve of this family, to grow crops on land historically used to grow crops.

Rarely have we seen an administration distort the legislative intent of Congress as it has in this instance. The Army Corps and EPA are ignoring language that exempts "normal farming, silviculture, and ranching activities such as plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting . . ." and so on—exactly the activity that occurred in this instance. In other words, Congress clearly and unambiguously exempted day-to-day activities, and yet the administration continues working to try to regulate them.

Mr. Speaker, we have enacted language I have sponsored to defund this type of lawless regulation, and yet the administration continues. We must rein in this executive overreach and develop reforms that end this abuse once and for all.

THE DEADLIEST SHOOTING IN AMERICAN HISTORY

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, the June 12 mass shooting at a club in Orlando, Florida, was not only the deadliest shooting in American history, it was one of the most heinous hate crimes and acts of terrorism this country has ever seen. Too often hate crimes and acts of terrorism use guns. The epidemic overwhelmingly express the need to strengthen our gun laws.

A stronger background check system will help prevent hate crimes and acts of terrorism to protect Americans from terrorists who want to attack our way of life. We must give the FBI the authority to block sales to suspected terrorists, and we must require background checks for every gun sale in America.

Mr. Speaker, no more silence. Let's stand up as Americans, and in this Congress, and tell the American people, those who are mourning, and those across this country who have experienced this that we in Congress will do the work we were sent here to do, and that is to stand up and take action.

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BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: A CALL TO ACTION BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TO ELIMINATE RACIAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials relevant to the subject matter of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening, along with my colleague, Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES of the Eighth Congressional District of New York, for tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, Bridging the Divide: A Call to Action By the Congressional Black Caucus to Eliminate Racial Health Disparities.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, the Congressional Black Caucus comes to the House floor to discuss our overarching goal of promoting equality for African Americans across the healthcare spectrum.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that poverty, socioeconomic status, and health disparities are closely linked and latched together. For example, individuals with low incomes tend to have more restricted access to medical care and face greater financial barriers to affordable health care, oftentimes contributing to health disparities.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, the House Republicans released their Conference's poverty plan called A Better Way. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, this Republican antipoverty proposal isn't a better way, Mr. Speaker. It isn't even a new way. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is the wrong way. It uses the same trickle-down, discredited policies that House Republicans have put forth in the past.

The House Republicans' poverty elimination proposal would repeal the Affordable Care Act and undermine affordable, quality health coverage that millions of Americans are now enjoying. It would also cut Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program that we refer to as CHIP, and it would end the Medicare guarantee—programs with proven successes, Mr. Speaker, in reducing health disparities. So this is, in part, why we are here tonight.

We know that health coverage is the first step in securing better healthcare outcomes, and Medicaid and CHIP play a vital role in opening the doorway to the needed health care, especially for our children.

As we address the most pressing challenges in achieving health equity and equality for African Americans, I want hardworking American families to know that they have voices in Congress that aim to protect their safety, invest in their future, and provide affordable health care for all.

With the Affordable Care Act, which every member of the Congressional Black Caucus supported when it passed, we have improved access. We have improved affordability and quality of health care.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank President Obama for moving the needle forward in helping American families and African American families across this great country and Nation to have the financial and health security that comes with health care.